

Snatch & Grab:

1-8 Cav Brings in Suspected RPG Team

By Cpl. Bill Putnam
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — They arrived at a small, sleepy village along the banks of the Tigris River by helicopter and ground convoy just after dawn

April 24. Their job was to arrest two men suspected of firing rockets into the city and find their caches of rockets.

The Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment didn't find the rock-

ets. They did find the men.

The suspects' targets were "mostly of American camps in Baghdad and the Green Zone," the site of the Coalition Provisional Authority headquarters, explained Capt. Rex

Blair, commander of Delta Company, 1-8 Cav.

Later, after the men, who happen to be brothers, were taken into custody, they proved positive for recent exposure to TNT, a battalion official said.

Earlier in the week, an informant tipped off Blair that the two brothers were storing and firing rockets from an island behind their village. He went to work and drew up the plan to search the village and island.

The company's initial search came up empty handed. The suspects didn't live in the homes and nothing indicating caches or launch sites were found on the island.

Just as they were ready to go back to Camp Ferrin-Huggins, another informant told Blair the targets lived down the street. However, they had to be very careful. The Soldiers would pass a local funeral rite.



By Cpl. Bill Putnam, 122nd MPAD

Soldiers from Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment prepare to enter a home during a search for rocket caches in a village along the Tigris River April 24.

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\$300,000 to Help Eastern Baghdad Neighborhoods

AL THAWRA DISTRICT, BAGHDAD, Iraq — More than \$300,000 will be pumped into these eastern Baghdad neighborhoods, as a variety of coalition civil affairs projects are getting underway.

"The Coalition in the last week has committed over \$300,000 to projects ranging from trash and debris [removal] to [the] publication of [an] English/Arabic newspaper and

renovations of an Iraqi middle school," Capt. Brian Donnelly, a civil affairs advisor for units in Eastern Baghdad said.

These projects will continue, he said, and as more money begins to stabilize the economy, more projects will be turned over to the Iraqi people. Among future projects, there are plans to improve marketplaces and other areas of business and commerce.

Modernization of Iraqi municipal systems, such as sewage and roadways, is also a priority for civil affairs.

"We continually assess the needs of the Iraqi people through the Neighborhood Advisory Councils and work to match their needs with available local resources," Donnelly said. "There is an abundant supply of quality labor. The majority of our projects are

designed to employ that work force. It allows Iraqis to make Iraq better for themselves, and gives them pride in their accomplishments."

Donnelly noted that Coalition Forces will continue to provide for a safe and secure Iraq, ensuring that all these projects are allowed to go unimpeded by criminal and terrorists acts.

Suspects Taken Into Custody Without Resistance



By Cpl. Bill Putnam, 122nd MPAD

A man watches a Soldier from Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, guard him while his home is searched April 24. The company searched a village for two men suspected of firing rockets in to downtown Baghdad and their rocket caches. The two suspects were arrested.

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"We have to be very touchy feely here," Blair said.

"Yeah, maybe there will be some additional jackpot" in finding these guys, said Capt. Jason Whiteley, the battalion's civil affairs officer.

A group of Soldiers walked to the house and past the funeral. They waved hello to locals as they walked up the road, the heat and humidity making their body armor seem heavier. The locals at the rite, inside a tent with plastic chairs and a stereo hooked up to a public-address system, simply waved back nonchalantly.

The funeral music added a surreal aspect to the search when it could be heard. A couple of Soldiers commented that it sounded like something from the movie "Black Hawk Down." Another said it sounded like a Clint Eastwood spaghetti western soundtrack.

With the music providing background noise, the house was found and the Soldiers moved in. The man they wanted was home. The second, his brother, was home next door.

"These guys do look a little crafty," Whiteley said of the two men.

Something later, however, struck Blair and a few of his Soldiers as odd. They found most people up, eating breakfast as if they expected a search that morning.

"Oh, they knew we were coming," he said to Whiteley. "They were already dressed and eating breakfast."

Later a company translator said the main suspect had a cell phone and might have notified everyone about the raid.

As the detainees sat near by in the shade, a translator later explained one possible way the men fired the rockets — from the small, uninhabited island 200 meters from their homes and a short boat ride away.

"It's the closest point to the river," Whiteley said.

The company now had their men and prepared to move back to camp. Standing in the shade of a tree, Pfc. Robert Murphy said it's good the men were arrested, even if they didn't find the rocket caches.

"It gets them off the streets," he said.

Wednesday

High: 93
Low: 68



Thursday

High: 95
Low: 67



Friday

High: 93
Low: 66



Reminder: Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9

There's still time to mail a card or
send flowers (order online).



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Expansion of Killeen City Limits Goes Into Effect May 1

► From Killeen Daily Herald

KILLEEN, Texas- A green and white population sign marks the edge of Killeen.

It's a nondescript boundary line, but it means plenty to those who made a conscious decision to set their homes and livelihoods on the outskirts of town.

That line will move south as Killeen's largest annexation in history, about 8.6 square miles, becomes effective May 1.

Killeen was able to move quickly on the land grab because the largely rural area contains fewer than 100 residential tracts.

While the annexation area is not heavily populated, most of the people in the area south of town are longtime county residents, said Bill Yowell, who owns what is probably the biggest parcel in the area. "They're accustomed to operating without any city regulations," Yowell said of the residents affected by the annexation. "They are reluctant to give that up."

The inevitable transition from county to city will take place without any fanfare.

For Ruth Duncan, it's merely a change in her state of mind.

When she left for vacation this week, Duncan considered herself a country girl.

"When I come back, I'll be a city girl," Duncan, 72, said.

Duncan has lived in her humble gray home with its paint-chipped white columns since 1968.

The home was moved to its current location from Temple, where it was in the way of what was then a new road, General Bruce Drive.

Along with the other modest homes that dot the annexation sector, the area also contains sprawling ranches, an upcoming new subdivision, mobile homes and salvage yards.

Area residents did bring their concerns to the city during two well-attended public hearings. Each meeting saw about 50 county residents packing the City Council chambers. "You can fight City Hall," Duncan said. "You just can't win."

Duncan, who prefers the quiet of the county, listened but did not speak during one public hearing. She nodded as some fellow residents took to the podium and quietly pondered her unavoidable tax increase.

Lately, the reality of the city's move has become evident. She received a letter from the city's solid waste department, and she spent a few telephone hours trying to arrange a more convenient delivery of her new automated pick-up garbage can.

As the city begins to encroach on the county,

Duncan bristled when she noticed a fence going up across the street from her home. "I was afraid someone might move in over there," she said. "But they ended up bringing in some horses, and that's OK with me. I'd rather have horses than people."

The walls of Duncan's small home display her passion for her quiet way of life. She loves photographing sunsets, and many of the colorful pictures of clouds and sky were taken from her own front porch.

However, a collection of everything pig, from ceramics to wall hangings and refrigerator magnets, is deceptive. "My husband always told me he would put pigs out there," she said as she peered out her living room window. "But I told him it was pigs or me. He can't have both."

Although there are no pigs roaming her acreage, the joke grew with her friends and family. Before she knew it, everyone she knew was giving her a reminder.

One thing Duncan won't have to worry about is how the city's ordinances concerning farm-type animals might affect her.

The city is still working to revise issues that concern many county residents, including those pertaining to non-domestic animals and the discharge of weapons.

Duncan's concerns are more about paying city taxes and bringing her home up to city code. Although she doesn't favor the annexation, she admits it will have its perks. "We have a lot of stray dogs out here, some big ones," Duncan

said. "I can call that dog catcher every day."

Although many ranch and land owners protect their land and livestock by shooting the strays, more than a dozen wandering dogs have found refuge at the home of Jerry Bruce. Bruce, 68, lives amongst a flea market of sorts, which he inherited from a friend who died about five years ago.

Once he sells or gets rid of the stuff, Bruce said he plans to sell the property.

Killeen's newest residents will pay the fees for city services, such as water and solid waste, as they receive them. The city will begin to assess municipal taxes on the residents beginning 2005.

"When I come back, I'll be a city girl."

-Ruth Duncan, "New" Killeen resident



Killeen Daily Herald

The largest annexation in the history of Killeen goes into effect May 1. Signs denoting population and city limits will soon be adjusted and relocated.

Ellison Defeats Shoemaker on Belliveau's One-Hitter

► From *Killeen Daily Herald*

KILLEEN, Texas- The contrast in the dugouts was as stark as the numbers on the scoreboard.

On the Ellison side, a jubilant group of Eagles had just drenched coach Richard Tucker with Gatorade following a playoff-clinching 13-0 rout of Shoemaker.

In the Grey Wolf dugout, scarcely a word was being said as the team loaded its gear in silence.

For the Eagles (16-9, 10-3 District 7-4A), the five-inning mercy rule win guarantees at least a third-place finish in league play — marking the sixth time they have reached the playoffs in eight years under Tucker.

For Shoemaker (3-22, 1-12), the loss was nothing more than another setback in a bitterly disappointing season.

Ellison, the beneficiary of three first-inning walks by Shoemaker starting pitcher Gary Moralez, cashed in when

Jason Garza blasted a grand slam homer with two out.

Moralez's wild streak reappeared in the third with walks of Garza, Brandon Culpepper and Brandon Skinner. This, after James Belliveau had singled and Walter Kilpatrick had reached on a fielder's choice to start the inning.

By the time Moralez yielded to Chris Bryant with one out, the Eagles were already up by six. But after an RBI fielder's choice by Travis Tucker and a dropped fly ball by Tawney Tawnee in left, Ellison led 9-0 heading into the fourth.

Shoemaker, which has now lost 26 of its last 27 district games and 42 of its last 46 contests overall, continued to give the Eagles extra outs and free baserunners.

Errors by Rex Kyles at third and Robert Saucedo at shortstop came in the fourth, as did walks to Wayne McCoy and Mike Cruz. RBI singles from Ethan Tijerina and

Skinner compounded Shoemaker's trouble, as did a sacrifice fly by Tucker to score Tijerina.

When the dust finally settled, Ellison led 13-0 on only six hits, while its own starting pitcher, Belliveau, was on his way to tossing a one-hit masterpiece.



Killeen Daily Herald

Jason Garza (19) is congratulated by his Ellison Eagles teammates after hitting a grand slam.

Today in History

April 28

► From historychannel.com

1789 Mutiny on the HMS Bounty

1897 Chickasaw and Choctaw tribes abandon communal lands

1925 Poet T. S. Eliot accepts a position as editor of Faber and Faber publishers.

1945 Benito Mussolini is captured and executed by Italian partisans

1952 Gen. Dwight Eisenhower steps down to run for president

1965 U.S. troops land in the Dominican Republic

1969 Charles De Gaulle resigns as leader of France

1970 President Nixon approves Cambodian incursion

1977 Red Army Faction trial ends

1990 The Broadway musical *A Chorus Line* closes after 6,237 performances

TV GUIDE

	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
18:00	Popular Mechanics for Kids/ Liberty's Kids	Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman	NBA Fastbreak/ Pardon the Interruption	Star Trek VIII: First Contact
19:00	Jeopardy/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 19:30	Sportscenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ The Fairly Oddparents
20:00	ESPNNews/ HeadlineNews	Dirty Harry	ESPNNews/ Baseball Tonight	The Simpsons/ The Cosby Show
21:00	8 Simple Rules.../ The Bernie Mac Show	Fletch 21:45	Sportscenter	American Idol
22:00	America's Next Top Model		MLB - Cleveland Indians @ Chicago White Sox	Star Trek: Next Generation

Sports



NBA

2004 NBA All-Rookie Team

1st Team

LeBron James, Cleveland
Carmelo Anthony, Denver
Dwyane Wade, Miami
Chris Bosh, Toronto
Kirk Hinrich, Chicago

2nd Team

Josh Howard, Dallas
Marquis Daniels, Dallas
T.J. Ford, Milwaukee
Udonis Haslem, Miami
Jarvis Hayes, Washington